

REMARKS

5 In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a), the Applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment to place the present application in a condition suitable for allowance. As described below, the amendment cancels claims 8-9, 19-20, 30-31, and 34 and amends claims 1-2, 10-13, 21-24, and 32-33. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-7, 10-18, 21-29, and 32-33 remain pending.

10 *In the Final Office Action mailed 2 March 1999, the Examiner merely objected to claims 9-11, 20-22, and 31-33 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but allowable if rewritten independent form.* In response, the Applicant accepts conditionally allowed claims 9-11, 20-22, and 31-33 and cancels the remaining rejected claims.

15 More specifically, the Applicant amends claim 1 to include all limitations of conditionally allowed dependent claim 9, amends claim 12 to include all limitations of conditionally allowed dependent claim 20, and amends claim 23 to include all limitations of conditionally allowed dependent claim 31. Claims 2, 10, 11, 13, 21, 22, 24, 32, and 33 have been amended merely for proper dependency and antecedent basis.

20 Therefore, in view of the amendments herein, the Applicant submits that claims 1-7, 10-18, 21-29, and 32-33 and the entire application is in a condition suitable for allowance.

The Applicant believes there are no fees required for this Amendment, however, authorization is given to debit USPTO Deposit Account No. 09-0442 for any fee that may be due.

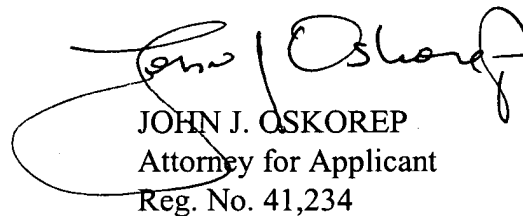
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Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, he is respectfully invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

M. SOVIK

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